

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A cover fastening system for a boat, the system comprising:
a groove defined along a side of the boat;
a plurality of expandable anchors positionable within the groove; and
a plurality of fastening members, each fastening member including a threaded portion and a snap portion, the threaded portion of each fastening member being screwed within a respective anchor to expand and fix the anchor at a desired position along the groove, and the snap portion being adapted to engage a corresponding snap structure of a boat cover.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein each fastening member and respective anchor is repositionable within the groove at a plurality of positions along the side of the boat.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein each anchor defines a threaded cavity into which the threaded portion of the fastening member is screwed to expand the anchor and thereby fix the anchor and fastening member at the desired position.
4. The system of claim 1, wherein each anchor includes an expanded state and an unexpanded state.
5. The system of claim 4, wherein the anchor is slideable along the groove when the anchor is in the unexpanded state.
6. The system of claim 1, wherein the groove extends along a substantial length of the side of the boat.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the anchor defines indentations, and wherein the groove defines fingers, the indentations being configured to receive the fingers when the anchor is expanded to hold the anchor within the groove.
8. A boat including a cover fastening system, the boat comprising:
a body of the boat including first and second sides;
a groove defined along the first side of the boat;
a plurality of expandable anchors positionable within the groove; and
a plurality of fastening members, each fastening member including a locking portion and a mounting portion, the locking portion of each fastening member being received within a respective anchor to expand and fix the anchor at a desired position along the groove, and the mounting portion being adapted to engage a corresponding mounting structure of a boat cover.
9. The boat of claim 8, wherein the locking portion of each fastening member is a threaded portion.
10. The boat of claim 8, wherein the mounting portion of each fastening member is a snap portion.
11. The boat of claim 8, wherein the first side of the boat includes a freeboard extending in a generally vertical direction, a weatherboard extending in a generally horizontal direction, and a gunwale member extending along the first side of the boat, the gunwale member defining a first receiving portion to accept one end of the freeboard and a second receiving portion to accept one end of the weatherboard, and wherein the gunwale member further defines the groove that receives the plurality of anchors.
12. The boat of claim 11, wherein the gunwale member is an extrusion.

13. The boat of claim 11, wherein the gunwale member is made of aluminum.
14. The boat of claim 11, wherein the gunwale member further defines a channel configured to hold a bumper.
15. The boat of claim 8, wherein each fastening member and respective anchor is configured to slide along the groove and be located at a plurality of positions along the first side of the boat.
16. The boat of claim 8, wherein the groove extends along a substantial length of the first side of the boat.
17. The boat of claim 8, wherein the groove is downwardly angled.
18. A boat including a side having gunwale extrusion, the boat comprising:
 - a weatherboard connected to the extrusion; and
 - a freeboard connected to the extrusion;wherein the extrusion defines a groove that extends along a substantial length of the side of the boat.
19. The boat of claim 18, further comprising:
 - an upwardly facing channel defined by the extrusion and configured to receive a first bumper; and
 - a laterally facing channel defined by the extrusion and configured to receive a second bumper.
20. The boat of claim 19, further comprising a plurality of anchors and respective fastening members positioned within the groove.

21. The boat of claim 20, wherein the groove is downwardly angled for receiving anchors.
22. A method of fastening a cover to a boat, the boat including a side defining a groove, the method comprising:
sliding a fastener along the groove to a desired position;
expanding the fastener to fix the fastener at the desired position; and
fastening the cover to the fastener.
23. The method of claim 22, wherein the fastener includes a fastening member and an expandable anchor, and wherein the expanding step further comprises introducing the fastening member into the anchor to expand the anchor and thereby fix the fastener at the desired position.
24. The method of claim 23, further comprising screwing the fastening member into the anchor to expand the anchor.
25. The method of claim 22, further comprising:
unexpanding the fastener to loosen the fastener;
sliding the fastener along the groove to a second desired position; and
expanding the fastener to fix the fastener at the second desired position.
26. The method of claim 25, wherein the unexpanding step further comprises unscrewing the fastener to loosen the fastener.